



**Draft Meeting Minutes  
October 18, 2017  
Holiday Inn  
Rutland, VT**

The Vermont System Planning Committee (VSPC) held a regular meeting on October 18, 2017, at the Holiday Inn, Rutland, Vermont. Deena Frankel called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

Hantz Pr sum  moved approval of the July 12, 2017, minutes; Rip Kirby seconded. The minutes were approved without objection.

## **Introductions**

Participants introduced themselves. A list of attendees by sector appears on page 4 of these minutes.

## **Welcome & Introductions**

Christine Hallquist spoke to the committee about achieving Vermont's 90% renewable by 2050 energy policy goal through grid modernization efforts and requested that the VSPC become engaged in the process.

## **Geographical Subcommittee**

Ms. Frankel reported that the Geographical Targeting Subcommittee met on October 10 to review the geotargeting recommendation letter to the Vermont Public Utility Commission (PUC). Ms. Frankel reviewed the draft letter, which was included in the VSPC packet, and asked for questions and comments before moving approval of the draft as distributed. The recommendations will be filed with the PUC by November 1, 2017. [Note: the letter was filed on October 23, 2017.]

**Steve Litkovitz moved and Bill Powell seconded approval of the GT recommendations, which were approved without objection.**

The committee also reviewed the Non-Transmission Analysis (NTA) screening for VELCO's Barre substation upgrade and concluded the project screened out of a full NTA analysis. The committee discussed the VSPC's role in the issue of export capacity limitations in the Sheffield-Highgate Export Interface (SHEI) and recognized that export constraints are economic issues, which fall outside the category of reliability deficiencies as defined and addressed in Docket 7081.

## **Forecasting Subcommittee**

Ms. Frankel reported that the Forecasting Subcommittee met on October 5 to review the final load forecast for the 2018 Vermont Long-Range Transmission Plan. Mr. Pr sum  presented the final load forecast, which projects flat load over the next 10 years. In the second decade of the forecast, with adjustments for electric vehicles, heat pumps and solar, demand is expected to increase rapidly.

## **SHEI Presentation**

Mr. Pr sum  presented the final report of VELCO's SHEI study. The presentation included a description of system conditions tested, a matrix of tested cases, and study results for both thermal and voltage issues. The study highlighted several findings including: multiple options can increase the voltage limit; the Highgate Synchronous Condenser provides 30MW of incremental voltage benefit with minimal thermal benefit; 115 kV line additions are longer term options; and upgrades to the B20, B22 and K42 lines have the potential to provide some voltage and thermal benefits. An assessment of the K42 line reveals 50% of the poles need to be replaced and almost all of the poles will need to be replaced between three and 15 years. VELCO will determine whether it makes sense to rebuild the entire line sooner, rather than rebuilding it piecemeal, which could help mitigate SHEI constraints.

Next steps will include further analysis by the distribution utilities and cost estimates by VELCO on transmission line, batteries and synchronous condenser options, as well as further assistance as requested by the distribution utilities.

## **VSPC Ten-Year Commemoration**

Ms. Frankel acknowledged the ten year anniversary of the Vermont System Planning Committee and recognized and thanked members who have been involved from the first meeting in 2007. Commemorative coffee mugs were distributed.

## **ISO New England Update**

Molly Connors, of ISO New England (ISO-NE), updated the VSPC on the 12<sup>th</sup> Forward Capacity Auction (FCA), which will take place in February 2018. The Forward Capacity Market (FCM) was designed to ensure that New England power system will have sufficient resources to meet the future demand for electricity. FCAs are held annually, three years in advance of each operating period. Resources compete in the auctions to obtain a supply capacity commitment in exchange for a market-priced capacity payment. Currently, a regional effort is underway to change the FCA to better balance state public policies with competitive wholesale electricity market structures. ISO-NE' proposal for FCA modification, called Competitive Auctions with Sponsored Resources or CASPR, accommodates public policy resources in the FCM over time while minimizing the impact that such resources have on competitively-based capacity prices that encouraged development of resources in the region when needed. NEPOOL will vote on the proposal next month and the ISO-NE will submit the proposal to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) by the end of the year.

Ms. Louiselle reported that the Regional Utility Group has been reconvened and is meeting regularly to gather multiple perspectives on key regional issues, including the CASPR proposal. The group will continue to check in between quarterly meetings to identify areas of alignment and divergence and help inform Vermont's participation in ISO-NE forums.

Ms. Frankel reported on the comprehensive non-wires alternatives study recently published by Greentech Media. The Renewable Energy Standard, Vermont Weather Analytics Center and merchant transmission updates will be moved to the next quarterly meeting due to the constraints of time.

## Project Updates

**Connecticut River Valley:** Mr. Pr sum  reported the capacitor bank installation and line rebuild were completed. Work on the Chelsea and the Ascutney substations are underway and scheduled to be complete in 2018.

**Northern Area:** Mr. Pr sum  reported the area is being monitored and will be part of the 2018 Vermont Long-Range Transmission study.

**Rutland:** Ms. Jones reported that Green Mountain Power received a Certificate of Public Good for the recommended upgrades in the Rutland area, which will permanently close the B7 tie at West Rutland. The line from West Rutland to Florence will need to be reconducted to support the Rutland region. Upgrades are in progress and scheduled to be completed in 2018. GMP continues to monitor the area in case there is a need for a reliability plan.

**Hinesburg:** GMP filed a reliability plan in 2016 and recommended battery storage and joint work at a VEC substation. The VEC substation has been delayed to 2020. GMP is still pursuing property to purchase and continues to monitor growth in the area.

## Other VELCO Projects

**PV20:** Mr. Pr sum  reported that VELCO has completed cable installation. Work continues to interconnect the cables to the new terminal station and is expected to be complete by January 2018.

**Structure Condition Improvement Project:** Mr. Pr sum  reported the project aims to replace aging structures and is currently replacing 100–200 structures per year. Special crews are performing live line work on some of the critical lines that cannot be taken out of service.

## Adjournment & Next Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m. The next quarterly meeting is scheduled to be held from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on January 24, 2018, at the Double Tree Hotel, South Burlington, VT.

## ATTENDANCE

\*Indicates voting member

\*\*Indicates alternate

### Public Sector

- \*Michael Kirick (business rep)
- \*\*Rose Smith (residential alternate)
- \*Michael Wickenden (residential rep)
- \*Johanna Miller, VNRC

### Transmission Utility (VELCO)

- \*Hantz Pr sum , VELCO

### Distribution Utilities Providing Transmission (GMP, VEC)

- \*Steve Litkovitz, GMP
- \*\* Doug Smith, GMP

- \*Cyril Brunner, VEC (by phone)

### Large Transmission-Dependent Distribution Utilities (BED, WEC)

- \*Bill Powell, WEC (by phone)
- \*Munir Kasti, BED (by phone)

### Transmission Dependent Distribution Utilities (Municipals)

Melissa Bailey, VPPSA

### Supply & Demand Resources

- \*Nathan Vandal
- \*\*Olivia Campbell Andersen
- \*Dave Westman, VEIC

### Non-Voting Members

Riley Allen, DPS

### Staff

Deena Frankel, VELCO  
Shana Louiselle, VELCO

### Guests

Allyson Brown, VELCO  
Dave Carpenter, Facey, Goss, McPhee  
Josh Castonguay, GMP  
Lou Cecere, VELCO  
Molly Connors, ISO-NE  
Mary Coombs, VELCO  
Tom Dunn, VELCO  
Gillian Eaton, VEIC  
Dave Haas, VELCO  
Christine Hallquist, VEC  
Scott Harding  
Eric Harrold, VELCO  
William Jerome  
Kim Jones, GMP  
Rip Kirby, GMP  
Brian Evans Mungeon  
Colin Owyang, VELCO  
Jaime Smyrski, VELCO  
Bob Stein  
Amber Widmayer, VELCO